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Direct-current circuit theory

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forward feedback resistance

Fig. 4. Chopper-stablized amplifier.

per-modulated amplifier, because the high-pass and low-pass filters direct the frequency components of the input signal into the separate amplifiers. Thus, for dc and very low frequency signals the open-loop gain is equal to the gain of the chopper amplifier times the gain of the dc amplifier, while for higher-frequency signals the gain is that of the dc amplifier alone. However, if the gains are large, then when the feedback network is connected, the gain is equal, to a good approximation, to the feedback impedance divided by the impedance in the forward path. The gain is, therefore, essentially independent of the open-loop gain, and the dc amplifier drift has been significantly reduced.

Chopper-stabilized amplifiers find wide application in analog computers, where they are used in integrating and summing amplifiers. In many problems solved on analog computers the time scale is reduced. This imposes strict requirements on the freedom from drift of the de amplifiers. These requirements are met with amplifiers where a typical value for the de amplifier gain is 100,000 and a typical value for the gain of the chopper-modulated amplifier is 1000.

Christos C. Halkias
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Scientists, 4th ed., 1983; C. H. Evans, Electronic
Amplifiers: Theory, Design and Use, 1979; D. G.
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liect current

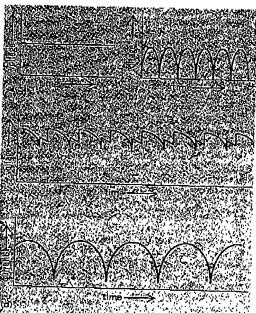
tric current which flows in one direction only high a circuit or equipment. The associated direct liggs, in contrast to alternating voltages, are of unging polarity. Direct current corresponds to a gor displacement of electric charge in one unvariance direction around the closed loop or loops of an incircuit. Direct currents and voltages may be usually an analysis of the circuit.

eries and rotating generators produce direct of nominally constant magnitude (illus. a). yoluges of time-varying magnitude are profy rectifiers, which convert alternating voltage ting direct voltage (illus. b and c). See Batharor: Rectifier.

current is used extensively to power adjust-

able-speed motor drives in industry and in transportation (tilus. d). Very large amounts of power are used in electrochemical processes for the refining and plating of metals and for the production of numerous basic chemicals. See Electrochemical process; Electrophylating of METALS.

Direct current ordinarily is not widely distributed for general use by electric utility customers. Instead, direct-current (dc) power is obtained at the site where it is needed by the rectification of commercially available alternating current (ac) power to dc power. Solid-state rectifiers ordinarily are employed to supply de equipment from ac supply lines. Rectifier de sup-



Typical direct currents and voltages. (a) Output from a bettery; (b) full-wave rectified voltage; (c) output of the rectifier station of a high-voltage dc transmission link (after E. W. Kimbark, Direct Current Transmission, vol. 1, Wiley-Interscience, 1971). (d) Current in a rectifier-supplied dc motor (after A. E. Fitzgerald, C. Kingsley, and A. Kusko, Electric Machinery, 3d ed., McGraw-Hill, 1971).

plies range from any devices in household electronic equipment to high-voltage de transmission links of at least hundreds of megawatts capacity. See Electric FOWER SYSTEMS; Semiconductor RECIFFER.

Many high-voltage de transmission systems have been constructed throughout the world. Very large amounts of power, generated as ac and ultimately used as ac, are transmitted as de power. Rectifiers supply the sending end of the de link; inverters then supply the receiving-end ac power system from the link. High-voltage de transmission often is more economical than ac transmission when extremely long distances are involved. SEE ALTERNATING CURRENT; ELECTRIC CURRENT; TRANSMISSION LINES.

D. D. Robb

Direct-current circuit theory

An analysis of relationships willin a dc circuit. Any combination of direct-current (dc) voltage or current sources, such as generators and batteries, in conjunction with transmission lines, resistors, inductors, capacitors, and power converters such as motors is

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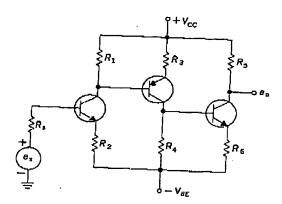


Fig. 1. Direct-coupled amplifier of the type which uses npn and pnp transistors.

amplify alternating-current (ac) signals. See Amplifier.

Some type of coupling circuit must be used between successive amplifier stages to prevent the relatively large supply voltage of one stage from appearing at the input of the following stage. These circuits must pass de signals with the least possible amount of attenuation.

Transistor direct-coupled amplifiers have a number of advantages and disadvantages relative to vacuum-mbe amplifiers. Interstage direct coupling is much casier with transistors because of the availability of both pnp and npn transistors and Zener diodes. The circuit of Fig. 1 is a direct-coupled amplifier. The main disadvantage of this amplifier is the temperature dependence of the transistor parameters, specifically the current gain hep, the base-to-emitter voltage V_{DS}, and the leakage current I_{CBO}. Very often a Zener diode is used to couple between stages, and in that case it is not necessary to use both pnp and npn transistors. The Zener diode has a range of values of current through the diode for which the voltage across it is nearly constant. In effect, the Zener diode acts like a battery.

Differential de amplifier. It is generally recognized that the differential amplifier is the most stable de amplifier circuit available. This is true because in this circuit the performance depends on the difference of the device parameters, and transistors can be manufactured using the planar epitaxial technique with very close matching of their parameters. Figure 2 shows a

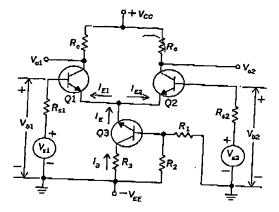


Fig. 2. Differential de amplifier with constant-current atage in the omitter circuit.

differential amplifier with a countant cure

Carrier amplifier. A method of amplifications slowly varying) signals by means of action modulate a carrier signal by the signal affed, amplifying the modulated signal, and lating at the output. (In some applications instrument servomechanisms, output in the modulated carrier is required and no demoduces and the control of the control

An analysis of an actual circuit would show order to have an output e_o free from harmonic duced by the modulation, the output low-pay cutoff frequency must be small compared to the ulation frequency. This limits the bandwidth input signal e_o to a small fraction of the bandwidth

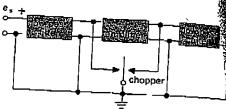


Fig. 3. Chopper amplifier.

signals which can be amplified by the types previously discussed. This is a disadvantage in most case, but there are cases, such as the output voltage from a thermocouple, where the required bandwidth is small. Various types of choppers (bipolar transistors, field effect transistors, and electromechanical devices) are used as modulators. An additional disadvantage is that the chopper must be carefully designed to reduce to a minimum the hum and noise which can be introduced by an electromechanical element and the offset voltage and leakage current of a transistor. However, this amplifier provides stable amplification of the input signal, and it is used in many industrial recording instruments. Sea Modulation; Viberator; Voltage am

Chopper-stabilized amplifiers. A chopper-stabilized amplifier is composed of two amplifiers: One amplifier is a carrier amplifier employing a chopper to modulate and demodulate a portion of the signal to be amplified; the second amplifier is a straight de amplifier. The success of this circuit in reducing to a very low value the amount of drift appearing at the output depends upon the fact that the drift is a very low-frequency phenomenon. A block diagram of a chopper-stabilized amplifier is illustrated in Fig. 4.

A component of the output signal e, is due to drift in the de amplifier, and if it is fed back through the feedback resistor to the input of the chopper-modulated amplifier (it cannot be fed back to the de amplifier because of the high-pass filter), the drift component will be amplified and returned to the de amplifier. An analysis of the circuit shows that the input voltage e, to the de amplifier is altered by a factor equal and opposite to the equivalent drift voltage appearing at the input. The net result is that the drift can be reduced to a negligible value.

A signal appearing at the input terminals is amplified partly in the dc amplifier and partly in the chop-

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and 3. The channel spacing is also different, providing 32 channels, again using both senses of circular polarization. The transmitted power level allowed in region 2 was lowered from that in regions 1 and 3 to minimize possible interferences with other services and to take advantage of technology improvements in user receiver design.

Because of the differences between implementations by region, the complete equipment for signal reception may not be transportable across regional boundaries, although some components of the equipment can be use in all regions. Actual hardware differences are small, however, and do not represent a echnology block. See RADIO SPECTRUM ALLOCATIONS.

Development. The Communications Technology Satellite (CTS), a shared United States-Canadian spacecraft launched in 1976, included a high-power DBS experimental transmitter developed by Canada in addition to its equipment for other communications experiments. The Canadians followed this with other experiments on ANIK-B, launched in 1978.

In 1978, Japan launched BSE I, a spacecraft totally committed to DBS experiments. It was beset with technical problems in its high-power transmission amplifiers, but was followed in 1984 by BS 2, which achieved operational status.

The West German DBS TV-SAT I was launched in 1987 but failed to operate. Other countries with spacecraft projects with scheduled launches are France, Sweden, Ircland, and Great Britain.

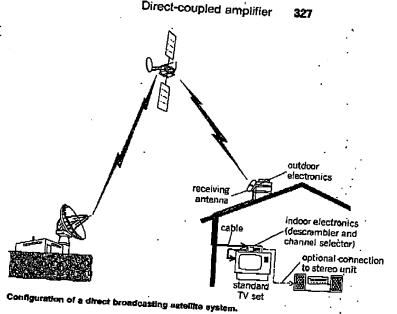
Technical problems. Problems encountered in the implementation of a DBS system include rain attonuation, impact of high-power radio-frequency satellites, mittal implementation cost, and establishment of a broad user base.

h Rain attenuation is the degradation of received sigand strength from the satellite when rain is present in he line of sight from the satellite to the homesat termal. The signal strength may be reduced by a factor B to 4 or more over clear air transmissions and may severe enough in dense rain conditions to cause loss of reception. The two solutions for this plem are more transmitter power in the spacecraft la larger homesat terminal antenna.

increased transmitter power in the spacecraft a reduction of the number of channels per eraft. This in turn causes a requirement for mulpacecraft at a given orbit location. This problem lived by management of precise orbit location spacecraft to avoid possibility of cullision and preference in the control signals to the spacether technical problems are achieving the detime of the high-power satellite transmitter 0 years) and dissipating the thormal energy

st to implement the DBS system is much hat of a terrestrial distribution system per of coverage area. However, the DBS syslemented over an entire time zone instanand the total cost to implement becomes When the first DBS system is implestystem operator has the problem of inof transmitting hardware (the satellite itions) with a very small user population igally small number of homesat termis to the last problem of establishing a equate size for the systems operator to

Stronsiderations. Of great importance a DBS system is the programming.



DBS systems, because of the possibility of vast numbers of viewers served, have the opportunity to provide special-interest broadcasting. The economics of the broadcasting of such specialty programming becomes profitable when, as in a DBS system with a large user base, a small percentage of the total viewing community can provide the necessary revenue. For the terrestrial-based systems, each station must provide broad-interest programming to maintain a large percentage of the viewer population to achieve

In addition to specialty broadcasting, the DBS system can provide both normal wide-area advertisersupported and pay-for-view programming. See Com. MUNICATIONS SATELLITE; TELEVISION.

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Direct-coupled amplifier

Profitability.

A device for amplifying signals with direct-current (dc) components. There are many different situations where it is necessary to amplify signals having a frequency spectrum which extends to zero frequency. Some typical examples are amplifiers in electronic differential analyzers (analog computers), certain types of feedback control systems, and some medical instruments such as the electrocardiograph. Amplifiers which have capacitor coupling between stages are not usable in these cases, because the gain at zero frequency is zero. Therefore, a special form of amplifier, called a dc (for direct-current) or direct-coupled amplifier, is necessary. These amplifiers will also

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